

ST. PAUL RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
DRAFT MINUTES
MAY 11, 2000
ST. PAUL, ALASKA

The St. Paul Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) met on Thursday, May 11, in St. Paul, Alaska. The meeting was called to order by Community Co-Chair Victor Merculief.

Attendance

The following members were present:

Aquilina Bourdukofsky, St. Paul At-Large
Jason Bourdukofsky, St. Paul At-Large
Louis Howard, ADEC
Victor Merculief, Co-Chair, TDX Corp.
Anthony Philemonoff, TDX Corp.
Ron Philemonoff, TDX Corp.
Anthony Pierpoint, Co-Chair, NOAA

DRAFT

Other guests present:

David Ausman, PCA
Tara Bourdukofsky, CBSFC
Wilford Burson, NOAA
Dennis Hall, NOAA
Charles Hostetler, CESI
Mark Howard, USCG
Louis Jones, City of St. Paul
John Lindsay, NOAA
Andrey Mandregan, City of St. Paul
Clark Milne, Nortech
Laura Ogar, ADEC
Julianna Shane, BSE
Simeon Swetzof, Jr., City of St. Paul
Phil Zavadil, Tribal Government

AGENDA

Introductions, Public Comments, and Approval of Meeting Minutes

A copy of the meeting agenda can be found as Attachment A. A list of the current RAB membership is provided as Attachment B.

Anthony Pierpoint spoke of the importance of having at least one RAB meeting per year on the Islands. The meetings are intended to offer community members the opportunity to provide input, voice concerns, and obtain information concerning the restoration effort. Scheduling meetings on the islands provides the best opportunity to meet those objectives. Dr. Pierpoint thanked the attendees for taking the time to participate in the meeting. He also thanked John Lindsay for his outstanding work to move the restoration work forward and for his dedication to this effort.

John Lindsay reported that funding has been committed for this year, and the remaining funding available is minimal. There are a number of projects and limited staffing to cover them.

There was a request to make a revision to the meeting agenda to include a discussion of the budget, local hire provisions specified under the Public Law 104-91, and future clean-up needs. It was agreed to add the issues to the end of the agenda.

A motion was made and approved to schedule approval of the previous meeting minutes for the next full RAB meeting.

St. Paul Landfill Closure and New Landfill Development

John Lindsay reported that NOAA has contracted with Nortech to verify the location of the tract boundary. The work is expected to be complete in late June. Mr. Lindsay is also working on a cooperative agreement with the City of St. Paul to close the active areas of the landfill, and make space available in another more appropriate location for continued disposal over the next five to six years.

Ron Philemonoff indicated that he is not sure whether disposal is occurring outside the existing cell. He asked whether Nortech is going to determine the boundaries of the landfill and examine the possibility that disposal is occurring outside the boundaries of the landfill. John Lindsay replied that they intend to identify the boundaries of the landfill and that it may be necessary to erect a fence around the landfill to prevent migration outside the boundary.

Laura Ogar indicated that there is a need to clarify the boundary of the five-acre tract owned by NOAA, but there is also a need to be able to determine the boundary of the entire waste area. This may require digging test pits to determine the area required for capping. John reported that work is in progress to identify the entire area.

Ms. Ogar also reported that a 50-foot buffer is necessary between the waste and adjacent property. She also expressed concern regarding the height of the landfill, and indicated that the landfill is at or close to its height limit. She also reiterated concern that additional space will be necessary to allow for disposal over the next five to six years.

Ron Philemonoff indicated that TDX Corp. is in support of opening a temporary landfill, and indicated that TDX Corp. is willing to provide the space to NOAA. Jason Bourdukofsky expressed concern regarding the temporary landfill, and suggested the permanent solutions should be the objective. He also expressed concern regarding the safety issues with the airport. Andrey Mandregan expressed similar concern. John Lindsay agreed that the landfill needs to be closed and that NOAA will work to close it. He also stated that NOAA is not responsible for opening a new landfill, and that the community needs to work towards resolving the waste disposal issues so that the existing landfill can be closed. Any new landfill should be the responsibility of the island community.

Phil Zavadil spoke on the Tribal Government's activities regarding waste disposal. He indicated that the Tribal Government has established a waste management task group to examine methods of disposal. Currently, minimal funding is available, but additional funding is expected.

Mr. Philemonoff requested that Laura Ogar provide her suggestions on possible locations for a new landfill. Ms. Ogar indicated that Polovina Hill may have an adequate location, but indicated that alternative waste treatment methods, such as incineration, need to be examined. Phil Zavadil suggested that incineration is too expensive for St. Paul.

Clean-up Program Status and Schedule

John Lindsay handed out fact sheets on the status of the clean-up effort and provided an overview of some of the sites. The following is a short list of the information presented:

1. The bulldozer has been removed from the bog.
2. Debris removal at the dune vehicle bone yard was delayed due to snow.
3. Tract 46 site characterization is beginning.
4. NOAA is working to remove debris and material from several buildings that are planned for transfer.
5. An enhanced thermal desorption system for treatment of contaminated soil will be transported to St. Paul.
6. A drilling rig will be shipped to St. Paul. There is a plan to install a number of monitoring wells and sites are being selected.
7. Preliminary disposal efforts are underway for waste chemicals.

Fact sheets are provided as Attachment C. Mr. Lindsay indicated that the fact sheets will also be made available on the NOAA web page.

Ron Philemonoff asked whether NOAA planned to demolish the old power plant annex. He also indicated that there are several other old buildings which should be torn down. John Lindsay replied that there was a plan to demolish the old annex and suggested that the community come forward with their concerns regarding the safety condition of the buildings. Mr. Philemonoff indicated that the old equipment shed should be torn down. The barreling shed is also a concern.

Anthony Pierpoint suggested that the NOAA Real Property Management Division be consulted to establish whether the buildings should be torn down, and to address historical and preservation issues.

Coast Guard Status Report

Cdr. Mark Howard provided some briefing materials on the status of the remediation effort at Loran Station. The briefing materials are provided as Attachment D. Cdr. Howard reported that the city wells are sampled in March and September. The March sampling showed no petroleum contamination. The perimeter monitoring wells on the Coast Guard property are sampled every September. During recent sampling, five of the seven wells showed no contamination. Minimal contamination was identified in the others. Cdr. Howard also reported that the vapor extraction system is not operational. The Coast Guard is waiting for filters. Once the filters are replaced the system will be operational.

There was a question regarding the frequency of testing on the Coast Guard facility. It was reported that initially sampling was performed quarterly, but the frequency was reduced because of low variance in results.

There was also a suggestion that the Coast Guard allow a community member to maintain the vapor extraction system. Cdr. Howard suggested that any interested parties contact Tessa Meuhllehner to discuss the matter.

PCS Stockpile Treatment

Dennis Hall provided an overview of the stockpile treatment process. The process to be used is known as heated air vaporization or enhanced thermal desorption. The treatment system essentially heats the soil, using heated air at 1100 degrees Fahrenheit, to allow vaporization of contaminants from the soil. Following treatment the clean soil is removed. The system is capable of treating 600 cubic yards at a time. TDX Corp. will be trained on how to construct and operate the system.

The system will be shipped to St. Paul in June.

Tract 46 Site Characterization

Charles Hostetler, Ph.D. provided a briefing on the site characterization work. The purpose of the characterization work is to fully establish the nature and extent of soil and groundwater contamination, and Dr. Hostetler has developed a strategy for soil and groundwater sampling to fully assess the contamination. The strategy was based on existing sampling data, reports from the community, historical records, and visual inspections. Dr. Hostetler continues to work with the community and will modify the sampling scheme as additional information becomes available.

The selected sampling locations are provided as Attachment E

Debris Removal

Clark Milne, Nortech, provided a list and status of the debris removal work. The information is provided as Attachment F. Mr. Milne indicated that work with BSE has gone extremely well. There were 14 sites requiring removal. Some of the work included the removal of the Bulldozer, and Barges C and D. TPA Site 7 is also complete. Cliff-side landfill is approximately 80% complete.

A barge is scheduled to remove the debris from the island. John Lindsay indicated that there may be additional space available on the barge for the removal of other waste on the island.

Budget Review and Local Hire

As there was limited time, Ron Philemonoff suggested that a discussion of the budget be waived. He indicated that the local community needs work now more than ever, and that NOAA should consider using local personnel on any projects. John Lindsay suggested that he is limited by contracting requirements, but asked for suggestions on how NOAA might utilize local personnel quickly.

Public Comments/Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m.

Attachment A

Attachment B

Attachment C

Attachment D